

CONGRESSWOMAN

Carolyn McCarthy

Safety and Security for Israel - 107th Congress

Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is committed to Israel, our sole democratic ally in the Middle East. She is dedicated to ensuring Israel remains a strong, and secure nation during this trying time of international conflict, and she supports Israel's decision-making process. Congresswoman McCarthy is a pragmatist who has studied both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, realizing a difficult compromise between the two sides is inevitable for a permanent peace to stick in the region. At the same time, she doesn't believe Israel should compromise in the face of daily terrorist attacks. Congresswoman McCarthy is also working on many other issues of concern to the American Jewish community.

STANDING UNITED WITH ISRAEL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

Israel has lost 616 citizens to terrorism since the start of the second *Intifada* almost 2 years ago. This number, coupled with more than 3,000 Americans who died on September 11, joins the United States and Israel as natural allies in the war against terrorism. Congresswoman McCarthy is working in Congress to foster this working partnership.

- √ Congresswoman McCarthy cosponsored and helped pass **H.Res. 392, the Israel Solidarity** resolution. The resolution expresses Israel's inherent right to self-defense against terrorists, and a sense of solidarity between the United States and Israel in our war against terrorism.

Sanctioning the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)
McCarthy is a cosponsor of **H.R. 1795, the Middle East Peace Commitments Act**.

- Allows the President to impose sanctions on the PLO or PA if the President determines the Palestinian leadership isn't living up to their obligations in the fight against terrorism.
- Sanctions include: barring Palestinian officials from admission to the United States; downgrading the status of the PLO office in Washington; designating as Foreign Terrorist Organizations the entities associated with the PLO and PA which have engaged in attacks on the State of Israel; cutting off all non-humanitarian aid to the West Bank and Gaza.
- The sanctions would have a 6-month renewal process.

Cutting off Palestinian Aid as a Direct Consequence of Terrorist Activity

Currently, the United States sends an average of \$75 million every year to the PA, administered through the United States Agency for International Development. Last year, an additional \$125 million of American taxpayer money was delivered to the PA as part of a \$400 million three-year aid package appropriated by Congress in 2000.

Due to the PA's responsibility for the voyage of the Karine A freighter, captured by Israel in the Red Sea on January 3, 2002, carrying 50 tons of weapons, and the numerous terrorist attacks on innocent Israeli civilians conducted by Arafat's Fatah group,

- McCarthy is a cosponsor of **H.R. 3624, the Peace With Security Act**. If passed, this legislation would halt the distribution of American taxpayer money either directly, or indirectly, to the PA or any of its agencies.

Bringing Consistency to the United States' Policy Towards Terrorists

20 Americans have been murdered in Israel or areas controlled by the PA since the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993. Not one indictment or reward has been issued or offered in relation to these murders, although steps are routinely taken to secure the arrest and conviction of terrorists who have murdered Americans citizens elsewhere.

- Congresswoman McCarthy is a cosponsor of **H.R. 2098, the Koby Mandell Act**. This bill requires the Attorney General to establish an office in the Department of Justice to monitor acts of international terrorism alleged to have been committed by Palestinian individuals or individuals acting on behalf of Palestinian organizations and to carry out certain other related activities.

Expanding the List of International Terrorist Organizations

The United States' list of international terrorist organizations must continually be amended to reflect the constantly-evolving nature of terrorist tactics and entities. In February 2002, Congresswoman McCarthy joined her colleagues in writing to President Bush to request the addition of several militant factions of the PA to the list of official terrorist organizations. Her request included groups like the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade, the Tanzim Militia, and Force 17.

Increasing Security in the Middle East

In the 1990s, the United States imposed a series of economic sanctions on Iran and Libya, referred to in Congress as ILSA. Earlier support for sanctions on Iran was strong because of Iran's role in international terrorism, opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process, and active pursuance of weapons of mass destruction. Libya was sanctioned because of its role in the crash of Pan Am 103.

- ILSA has been effective in slowing Iran's ongoing weapons efforts by authorizing the president to impose sanctions on foreign companies investing in Iran and Libya's oil and gas sectors. Carolyn McCarthy cosponsored and helped pass **H.R. 1954, the ILSA Extension Act**, which extends the original sanctions until 2006.

STRENGTHENING THE UNITED STATES' FRIENDSHIP WITH ISRAEL

The United States continues to enjoy a mutually beneficial friendship with Israel, our sole Democratic ally in the Middle East. Carolyn McCarthy is working to maintain and strengthen this relationship in a variety of ways.

→ ***Working with New Governments and Leaders***

In the Spring of 2001, Israel was just beginning to feel the turbulence of the new *Intifada* about to engulf the country. New waves of violence eventually led to the election of Likudnik Ariel Sharon to the position of Prime Minister. Carolyn McCarthy cosponsored and helped pass **H. Res. 34**, a resolution congratulating Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. It also called for an end to violence in the Middle East, and reaffirmed the friendship between the governments of the US and Israel.

→ ***Providing Financial Assistance***

Israel receives large amounts of financial aid from the United States on an annual basis. This money is used a variety of ways to ensure economic and agricultural development, and military assistance. Carolyn McCarthy is a constant supporter of increased financial assistance for Israel.

→ In 2001, she helped pass **H.R. 1646, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act**, for Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003. Outside of authorizing funds for Israel, maintains Congress' commitment to relocating the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

→ She also helped pass **H.R. 2506, Foreign Operations FY2002 Appropriations bill**. The \$15.3 billion spending bill provided Israel with \$2.04 billion in military aid and \$720 million in financial assistance. The bill also includes provisions recommending that sanctions be imposed against the Palestinian Authority if the President determines that it has failed to comply with its commitments to halt terrorism and end incitement.

SEARCHING FOR MISSING ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS

On October 7, 2000, three of Israeli soldiers, Adi Aitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad, were abducted by *Hezbollah* while on duty along the Israeli-Lebanon border. *Hezbollah* kidnapped Elchanan Tanenbaum, an Israeli citizen and reservist on a business trip in Europe, shortly thereafter. Further information has been difficult to find. Carolyn McCarthy is working on their behalf to keep this atrocity in the public spectrum, and hopefully get answers regarding their status for the Israelis' families.

√ Carolyn McCarthy cosponsored and helped pass **H. Res. 99**. This legislation asks Lebanon, Syria, and Iran to call upon *Hezbollah* to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the four abducted Israelis.

- √ In July 2001, the public discovered the U.N. had been in possession of video footage shot by United Nations Interim Forces (UNIFIL) soldiers just 18 hours after the kidnapping of the three Israeli soldiers. The U.N. refused to give the tape to Israel in its original unedited form, and instead provided Israel with a tape that blocks out the faces of people who may be associated with the kidnapping.
- When news of the videotape first broke, Carolyn McCarthy joined her colleagues in writing to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to express their displeasure with the withholding of a tape of the kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers. They urged him to release the unedited the tape to the Israeli government.
- She also helped pass **H. Res. 191**, which said the United Nations should immediately transfer to the Israeli Government the unedited and uncensored videotape since it contains images which could provide material evidence for the investigation into the Israelis' abduction.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL JEWRY

Carolyn McCarthy is committed to ensuring basic right for individuals worldwide. Several recent international events have prompted McCarthy's involvement in human rights issues important to the global Jewish community.

- √ ***Expressing concern regarding a rise in anti-Semitism in Europe***
Congresswoman McCarthy cosponsored and helped pass **H.Res. 393, which expresses Congress' concern regarding the recent rise in anti-Semitism in Europe**. The bill calls on the governments of Europe to protect the well-being and safety of their Jewish communities, and cultivate an atmosphere of cooperation and reconciliation among Jewish and non-Jewish residents.

- √ ***Standing Up for the Accused Iranian Jews***
Two years ago, 13 Iranian Jews were arrested on charges of spying for Israel; three were acquitted but the remaining 10 convicted in July of 2000. Although some confessed under duress, Israel has denied the Jews were spies.

- Carolyn McCarthy is a cosponsor of **H. Con. Res. 29**, which expressed denounced the conviction of members of Iran's Jewish community.

- √ ***Investigating the Detention of Israelis by the United States***
Several months after September 11, it was revealed approximately 50 Israeli Jews had been detained by the FBI in the terrorist investigation.

- Carolyn McCarthy wrote to Attorney General John Ashcroft to express her surprise at the number of Israelis detained since September 11, and inquire as to the remaining detainees' release.

- √ ***Fighting for Victims of the Holocaust***
Although more than 50 years have passed, the Holocaust is not a distant memory.

- Carolyn McCarthy is a cosponsor of **H. Con. Res. 118**, which urges the President, the Secretary of State, the Polish Government, and Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum officials to make specified efforts and take specified actions to retrieve and return to Dina Babbitt the seven watercolor portraits painted by her during her year and a half internment at Auschwitz death camp.
- She also helped pass **H.R. 1646, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act**, which among other things, says the resolution of slave and forced labor claims is an urgent issue for aging Holocaust survivors, and the German Bundestag should allocate funds for disbursement by the German Foundation to Holocaust survivors as soon as possible.

√ ***Voicing opposition to expulsion of Israel Medical Association from the World Medical Association.***

Congresswoman McCarthy and her colleagues wrote to Dr. Randy Smoak, the Chairman of the World Medical Association (WMA), opposing a proposed resolution to expel the Israel Medical Association from the WMA. The WMA is a non-governmental organization which operates based on science and medicine, not political conflict. The resolution was not introduced.

√ ***Urging the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) not to politicize football.***

Congresswoman McCarthy joined in an effort urging Joseph Blatter, President of FIFA, not to honor the Arab Football Federation's (AFF) request to suspend the Israel Football Association from membership in the organization. President Blatter agreed and declined the AFF's request.

PRESERVING JUDEO-CHRISTIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RUINS

Shortly after the 1967 War, the Israeli government delegated authority for the daily oversight of the Temple Mount to the *Waqf*, a Muslim Foundation. In the aftermath of the Oslo Accords, Arafat took control of the *Waqf*. In early 1998, Arafat's *Waqf* began permitting large-scale bulldozing and destruction of the Judeo-Christian Temple Mount antiquities.

- √ Carolyn McCarthy is a cosponsor of **H.R. 2566, Temple Mount Preservation Act of 2001**, which would cut off all aid to the PA until the President certifies that no unauthorized excavation of the Temple Mount in Israel is being conducted.

HONORING JEWISH-AMERICAN VETERANS

- √ ***Congresswoman McCarthy supports H.R. 606, the Leonard Kravitz Jewish War Veterans Act of 2001.***

- Directing the Secretaries of the military departments to conduct a review of military service records to determine whether certain Jewish-American war veterans should have been awarded the Medal of Honor.